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Nuttal Avenue Park Concept Plan Community Input Meeting Minutes Location: Deerfield Elementary School, Edgewood, Maryland Date: February 25, 2010, 6:00 p.m.

Harford County Representatives:

Dion Guthrie, Harford County Council Arden McClune, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation Paul Magness, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation Scott Kearby, Harford County DPW

Presenter/Design Team:

Paul Magness, Harford County, Department of Parks & Recreation Kenneth M. Usab, P.E., Morris & Ritchie Associates, Inc. (MRA)



Meeting Summary:

An overview of project history and current proposal for development was presented to the community by Paul Magness and Kenneth M. Usab. Key points from the initial presentation are summarized as follows:

- The project entails establishing a passive recreation Community Center Park in Edgewood on a site formerly used for military housing.
- Harford County initially purchased the property at the request of the Edgewood Community who did not want a housing project constructed at the site.
- Project is located on an eleven (11) acre site. The property offers a lot in a small space with open flat fields, open wooded groves and forested area. The project will be developed in at least two (2) phases, the first phase being between Lantz Street and Goddard Street.
- An overall master plan was developed by MRA showing the entire project.
- Excluding the cost of the property, the initial Construction Cost Estimate is \$225,000-250,000. The local Contribution will be \$50,000 with the remainder coming from DNR's Community Parks & Playgrounds Program.
- The Project includes clean up of the existing property, construction of a gazebo, playground and picnic style sitting area as well as landscaping.
- The Gazebo structure is envisioned to be a pre-engineered octagonal gazebo inscribed in a 36 ft. diameter circle.
- The Site will be available to host community concerts, plays, other presentations and individual use.

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- MRA will evaluate the existing street lighting and propose upgrades to existing street lights (if appropriate) and propose lighting appropriate for the interior walking path.
- Parks and Recreation has initiated discussions with the County Highways Department about closing Lantz Street in the future and returning it to grass during Phase 2 of the park development.

Public Comment / Question & Answer:

Melvin D. Hatcher, 199 Railroad Avenue, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Mr Hatcher expressed concern regarding the potential increase in traffic on Railroad Avenue. He did not want trails constructed through the existing wooded area. He made a request that a fence be constructed along east side of the woods adjacent to Railroad Avenue. He stated that the County Police were not willing to patrol Railroad Avenue and that he had experienced problems with vandalism / theft on his property. He stated that he personally cuts the brush along Railroad Avenue. He had concerns about increasing the number of children in the woods.

He stated that the park is not well lit. He recommended that the County do something about the existing drainage problems in the area.

Response:

Mr. Magness stated that the Master Plan did not contemplate trails through the wooded area near Railroad Avenue. Mr. Usab stated that the area was primarily mapped as nontidal wetlands with dense underbrush. The County will consider the feasibility of constructing a fence along Railroad Avenue. The County will also review the issue of who owns Railroad Avenue and maintenance. A boundary survey is being completed by the County / MRA as part of the park planning work. Lighting will also be evaluated as part of the planning process.

Ms. Linda Heinsohn, 2009 Nuttal Avenue, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Ms. Heinsohn stated that she would like more trees and had concerns about more kids in park. She stated that there have been issues with trash and litter. She would prefer that the area remain as open space for deer.

Response:

Mr. Magness and Ms. McClune stated that the property had been purchased by the County, at the request of the Community, to prevent the site from being developed as a new residential community. Funding for the project is specifically restricted to



the general types of uses indicated. The County will be responsible for maintenance of the property and trash removal.

Mr. Charles Heinsohn, 2009 Nuttal Avenue, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Mr. Heinsohn expressed concerns about the pavilion structure and that it would be a gathering place for undesirable activities, particularly drug dealing. Mr. Heinsohn also expressed concerns regarding stormwater runoff and drainage issues in the area as well as safety issues for residents in the area if the park attracts illegal activity. The pavilion was of particular concern.

Response:

Mr. Magness stated that the pavilion would be similar in construction to the facility at Aberdeen Festival Park. The park will be periodically patrolled by County Police similar to other park facilities. The County will consider lighting in the pavilion area and remainder of the park during the planning process. Design of the Drainage facilities was addressed by Mr. Usab.

Ms. Barbara Gallahair, 2003 Nuttal Avenue, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Ms. Gallahair asked why this area was chosen for the park. She stated that one of the existing fire hydrants was not working. She stated that the area was one of the more peaceful areas and she did not want the park to become a "hangout".

Response:

Mr. Guthrie stated that the property was purchased by the County in an effort to stop development of the property as a housing project. Mr. Magness stated that the purpose of the project was for a passive community park.

Ms. Kathy Lyon, 3 McCann Street, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Ms. McCann stated that she does not like the project. She expressed concern regarding existing drainage issues and state that she was concerned that a new park would attract undesirable individuals and activity to their neighborhood.

Response:



Mr. Usab stated that the project would be designed according to the new State stormwater management regulations which are more stringent than the current State Standards. The County agreed to consider existing drainage issues and will look specifically at the flooding issue reported at the cross culvert on the north side of the intersection of Goddard Street and Nuttal Avenue.

Mr. Carlton Dunn, 2122 Nuttal Avenue, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Mr. Dunn stated that he was generally in favor of the project. He was also respectful of the other community concerns. He suggested that the park would give children in the area a safe place to go. He suggested that having a park may reduce the number of private property issues if the children in the area had a place to go.

Response:

No specific response was offered.

Mr. Charles Karl, 2005 Nuttal Avenue, Edgewood, MD 21040:

Comments:

Mr. Karl expressed concerns regarding the pavilion.

Response:

Mr. Magness stated that the County would take Mr. Karl's comment into consideration.

Specific Areas of Interest Expressed by Most Residents' During the Meeting:

- There was a general consensus that more lighting is desired for security. Consider lights activated by motion detectors if feasible.
- Consider options for security fences.
- Consider elimination of the pavilion.

The extent of changes being requested by the Community may impact State funding availability for this Project. It was announced that this Plan will be reviewed / modified by County Parks & Recreation Staff based on public input and submitted for Development Advisory Committee review.



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Charles Burnell	· 4 maple AVE	443-402-1319
	Edge wood, Mil 2104	1
BARBARA H GALLAHAIR	2003 NUTTAL AVE	410-676-2502
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Kathu Lvon	3 McCann St	410.676.3678
Kathy Lyon	Edgewood, MD 21040	
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